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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/073,460	02/11/2002	Hiroto Oka	B422-181	4404

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, LUONG TRUNG

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2622

DATE MAILED: 07/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/073,460	Applicant(s) OKA ET AL.	
	Examiner LUONG T. NGUYEN	Art Unit 2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6-8, 12-14 and 18-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6-8, 12-14, 18-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 4/27/2006 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed on 4/27/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In re page 9, Applicants argue that Lowy et al. and DeAngelis et al. fail to teach or suggest the feature of generating a frame synchronization signal in accordance with whether the apparatus is set as a master camera or a slave camera.

In response, the Examiner considers that the combination of Lowy et al. and DeAngelis et al. does disclose this feature. Lowy et al. disclose means for synchronizing SYNC SIGNAL to other cameras and video equipments (figure 2 shows a SYNC SIGNAL is sent from master camera 11 to slave camera 12, column 5, lines 5-12). And DeAnglis et al. discloses a network with plurality of cameras of which one is a primary camera C1 and the rest are slave cameras Cj (figures 9A-9B, column 21, lines 7-34). Therefore the combination of Lowy et al. and

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DeAngelis et al. does disclose the feature of generating a frame synchronization signal in accordance with whether the apparatus is set as a master camera or a slave camera.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 6-7, 12-13, 18, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lowy et al. (US 5,768,151) in view of DeAngelis et al. (US 5,552,824).

Regarding claim 6, Lowy et al. discloses an image pickup system comprising a time stamp generating unit adapted to generate a time stamp, wherein said time stamp is used to synchronize frame synchronization signals generated said image pickup apparatus and another image pickup apparatus (means for synchronizing SYNC SIGNAL, figure 2, column 5, lines 5-12);

an image data generating unit adapted to generate image data using said frame synchronization signal generated by said frame synchronization signal generating unit (figure 2 shows that based on SYNC SIGNAL, slave camera 12 generates frame image data transmitted to frame grabber 25).

Lowy et al. fails to specifically disclose a communication unit adapted to transmit said time stamp generated by said time stamp generating unit to another image pickup apparatus if said image pickup apparatus is set as a master camera, and receive said time stamp sent from said

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master camera if said image pickup apparatus is not set as said master camera, and a frame synchronization signal generating unit adapted to generate a frame synchronization signal using said generated by said time stamp generating unit and time information if said image pickup apparatus is set as master camera, and generate a frame synchronization signal using said time stamp received by said communication unit and said time information if said image pickup apparatus is not set as said master camera, wherein said time information is used to manage a communication cycle of said communication unit.

However, Lowy et al. disclose means for synchronizing SYNC SIGNAL to other cameras and video equipments (figure 2 shows a SYNC SIGNAL is sent from master camera 11 to slave camera 12, column 5, lines 5-12). And DeAngelis et al. discloses a network with plurality of cameras of which one is a primary camera C1 and the rest are slave cameras Cj (figures (9A-9B, column 21, lines 7-34), and DeAngelis et al. also disclose each tunable camera periodically communicates (communication cycle) with a precision timer and after initially establishing synchronous time, periodically re-tunes its clock rate to maintain synchronicity. Thus, in a system employing such cameras, each frame generated by a camera is marked with an “absolute” time marking (time information), column 21, lines 1-34. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device in Lowy et al. by the teaching of DeAngelis et al. in order to allow a user to monitor multiple scenes at the same time on a display.

Regarding claims 7, 13, DeAngelis et al. discloses wherein said communication unit is adapted to transmit said time stamp by an isochronous transfer if said image pickup apparatus is

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set as master camera (all slave cameras periodically synchronize their clocks, figure 9A, column 21, lines 1-34).

Claim 12 is a method claim of apparatus claim 6. Therefore, claim 12 is rejected for the reason given in claim 6.

Regarding claims 18, 20, DeAngleis et al. discloses wherein said image pickup apparatus sets itself as said master camera according to a command sent from an external control apparatus (DeAnglis et al. discloses a network with plurality of cameras of which one is a primary camera C1 and the rest are slave cameras Cj; since the plurality of cameras Cj are controlled via a central control computer, each of cameras Cj is set as a primary camera, figures 9A-9B, column 21, lines 7-34).

5. Claims 8, 14, 19, 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lowy et al. (US 5,768,151) in view of DeAngelis et al. (US 5,552,824) further in view of Iijima (US 6,286,071).

Regarding claims 8, 14, 19, 21, Lowy et al. and DeAngelis et al. fail to specifically to disclose the communication unit conforms to IEEE1394-1995 standard or its extended standard. However, Iijima teaches a communication system 100, in which an IEEE1394 high-speed serial bus may be used as a control bus which connects DV camera/recorder 50 to plurality of electronic devices (figure 1, column 6, lines 22-49). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device in Lowy

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et al. and DeAngelis et al. by the teaching of Iijima in order to alleviate a burden imposed upon the user when the user operates a plurality of electronic devices connected by the communication control bus such as IEEE1394 serial bus (column 5, lines 23-30).

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LUONG T. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571) 272-7315. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, DAVID L. OMETZ can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

LN
07/07/06



**LUONG T. NGUYEN
PATENT EXAMINER**